

To: R7 Daily Digest INBOX[R7_Daily_Digest_INBOX@epa.gov]
From: Whitley, Christopher
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Subject: OPA Daily Digest - 10/31/16

OPA Daily Digest – 10/31/2016

Upcoming EPA Region 7 Events by Division

*New additions noted with an asterisk

RA:

11/1/16 - Region 7 Recognition Ceremony, Regional Office. Contact: Monica Espinosa, 7541

11/9/16 – Combined Federal Campaign Event, Regional Office. Contact: Tanya Nix, 7071

11/10/16 – National Association of Farm Broadcasters, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

***11/16/16** – Ann Dunkin – Visit Region 7, Regional Office. Contact: Ben Krehbiel, 7106

***11/29/16** – HUD/EPA Coordination Meeting. Regional Office. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

DRA:

***11/7/16** – Veterans Event. Regional Office. Contact: Jim Stevens, 7322

11/1/16 - Region 7 Recognition Ceremony, Regional Office. Contact: Monica Espinosa, 7541

11/9/16 – Combined Federal Campaign Event, Regional Office. Contact: Tanya Nix, 7071

***11/16-17/16** – Executive Management Council Meeting. Washington DC. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

***11/29/16** – HUD/EPA Coordination Meeting. Regional Office. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

10/27-28/16 – Association of State & Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Don Lininger, 7724

10/28/16 – Kansas City, Kan. Healthy Environments Coalition Meeting, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Amy Bhesania/Steven (Cody) Brown, 7147 / 7718

11/2/16 – Pollution prevention roundtable at Frito-Lay, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Gayle Hubert, 7439

11/2-3/16 – Host and present at Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act/Risk Management Program Region 7 Stakeholder and Executive Order 13650 Annual Meetings, Regional Office, Lenexa, Kan. Contact: Terri Blunk, 7013

11/5/16 – National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services presentation on the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, the recent Volkswagen settlement and fuels regulations, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Greg Crable, 7391

11/8/16 – Presentation on Risk Management Program updates at Iowa Strategic Goals Program, Ankeny, Iowa. Contact: Krystal Stotts, 7946

11/14-18/16 – Quad Cities Nuclear Plant Exercise, Davenport, Iowa. Contact: Chuck Hooper, 7271

11/15/16 – America Recycles Day, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Jim Callier, 7646

11/16/16 – Region 7 Pollution Prevention Roundtable Meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Lisa Thresher, 7964

11/17/16 – Attend Sedgwick County Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting, Wichita, Kan. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383

CNSL

None

ECO

11/1/16 – St. Louis MVD Meeting, Northern Missionary Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., Contact: Brendan Corazzin, 7429

11/4/16 - Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant Program Development Meeting. EPA will provide information and answer questions about the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant program. Wichita, Ks. Contact: Brendan Corazzin, 7429

11/7/16 – Black Health Care Coalition – Healthy Homes Outreach, Negro Baseball Museum, EPA will distribute healthy home information to attendees. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

11/14/16 – Newton County Mine Tailings Public Meeting, Granby, Mo., Contact: Brendan Corazzin, 7429

11/15/16 – Newton County Mine Tailings Public Meeting, Neosho, Mo., Contact: Brendan Corazzin, 7429

***11/16/16** – Hardesty Public Information Meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Pam Houston, 7699

ENST

10/24-10/28 - Sporlan Valve, VI, Mobile Lab, soil gas Contact Lorenzo Sena x5094

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

10/31/16 – 11/4/2016 – Region 7 is participating in the EPA Decontamination Conference at Research Triangle Park, Durham, N.C. Contact: Megan Schuette, 7630.

10/31/16 – 11/4/2016 – Four Region 7 On-Scene Coordinators are participating in Removal Process Training, Edison, N.J. Contact: Adam Ruiz, 7926

11/8-9/16 – National Remedy Review Board Meeting, San Francisco, CA. Contact: Lynn Juett, 7883

11/13/16 – 11/18/2016 – Graded drills and exercises, National Incident Management Assistance Teams, Mount Weather, Virginia. Contact: David Williams, 7625.

11/28/16 – 11/29/2016 – Advanced Level A/B exercises. EPA/state OSCs and possible other response partners. Training and Logistics Center, KCMO. Contact: John Frey, 7994.

WWPD

10/31-11/03/16 – EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds National Nonpoint Source Training Workshop, Boston, Mass. Contacts: Steve Kovac, 7698, Leah Medley, 7167, Steve Schaff, 7447

11/1-4/16 – EPA Aircraft Drinking Water Regulation National Meeting, Dallas, Texas. Contact: Morris Holmes, 7421

11/1/16 - Association of Missouri Cleanwater Agencies Meeting at RO, Lenexa, Kan. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

11/10/16 – Climate Change Presentation at Liberty Alternative High School, Liberty, Mo. Contact: Amy Shields, 7396

11/16-17/16 – EPA Waste and Chemical Enforcement Division National Case Development Training, Dallas, Texas. Contacts: Brandon Boatman, 7993, Maria Morey, 7079

11/29-12/1/16 – EPA Water Division Directors Meeting, Chicago, Ill. Contacts: Karen Flournoy, 7782, Jeff Robichaud, 7146

12/6-8/16 – EPA Office of Water Urban Waters Focus Group, Washington, DC. Contact: Roberta Vogel-Leutung, 7072

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.) – 10/26/16 – Email: Constituent complaint about the city of Morley’s wastewater treatment system. Due: 10/31/16. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Roy Blunt (Mo.) – 10/25/16 – Letter: Constituent complaint about EPA regulations of ammonia storage tanks. Due: 11/9/16. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

KCPT Public Television, Kansas City – Michael Price – 10/24/16: Questions about Consent Decree with Kansas City, Mo., and the combined sewer overflow control plan. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

St. Joseph (Mo.) News-Press – Ray Scherer – 10/25/16: Questions regarding Atchison, Kan., chemical spill. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

WIBW Radio Topeka, Kan. – Nan Yates – 10/25/16: Questions and interview request regarding Atchison, Kan., chemical spill and any past EPA violations by MGP Ingredients, Inc. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

KSHB Ch. 41 Kansas City – Jessica McMasters – 10/25/16: Questions regarding Atchison, Kan., chemical spill and any past EPA violations by MGP Ingredients, Inc. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

St. Joseph News-Press (Mo.) – Greg Cozell – 10/25/16: Questions regarding Atchison, Kan., chemical spill and any EPA investigation. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

KSHB Ch. 41 Kansas City - Sam Hartle – 10/23/16: Questions regarding Atchison, Kan., chemical spill and any EPA investigation. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

Agri-Pulse – Steve Davies – 10/31/16: Questions about any search warrants that may have been served by EPA-CID or other agencies in the states of Arkansas and Tennessee in regard to investigations into misuse or misapplication of Dicamba pesticide products. Referred to EPA Regions 4 and 6. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/search/field_press_office/region-07

EPA Accepting Proposals for Brownfields Assessment, Cleanup Grants – 10/28/16 – Contact: Ashley Murdie, 7785

Fact Sheets:

None

Environmental Stories:

Police say Arkansas farmer shot in field-spray dispute - Arkansas Online - 10/29/16 - A Mississippi County soybean and cotton farmer was fatally shot Thursday evening after a dispute over the spraying of a herbicide on his fields northwest of Leachville, authorities said. <http://bit.ly/2f56h11>

Drift Dispute Leaves One Dead, One in Custody - AgWeb - 10/28/16 - A dispute over pesticide drift has led to the death of one man and the arrest of another in Leachville, Ark., according to Mississippi County Sheriff Dale Cook. <http://bit.ly/2f57PBH>

Farmer Allegedly Killed Over Dicamba - DTN Progressive - 10/28/16 - A northeast Arkansas cotton, soybean and corn farmer was allegedly shot to death Thursday afternoon in an argument over dicamba herbicide drift. <http://bit.ly/2f56OK5>

More than 4 tons of unused medicines collected in Iowa - Associated Press/Des Moines - 10/29/16 - Officials say more than four tons of unused medications were recently collected in Iowa as part of a National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. <http://bit.ly/2f4SMYw>

Coal no longer king for Iowa utilities - Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette - South of Alliant Energy’s Prairie Creek Generation Station on the city’s southwest side sits a mound of coal — enough to supply the Cedar Rapids power plant for about three months. <http://bit.ly/2f4VYDF>

Water Tank Work May Cause Issues - Columbia Missourian - 10/29/16 - Union residents shouldn't be concerned of fluctuations in water pressure, or possible chlorine tastes and odors, in the city drinking water. <http://bit.ly/2f4SOjk>

EPA Begins Testing At Sporlan Valve Site - Columbia Missourian - 10/29/16 - The Environmental Protection Agency has begun taking samples at the former Sporlan Valve site on Seventh Street. Crews have been in Washington this week for the initial round of soil testing. The information is just the first set of data the EPA is collecting from the site. <http://bit.ly/2fmFtXu>

Hatch's third security: Protecting our land and water - Des Moines Register - 10/29/16 - Iowans have always loved their relationship with the outdoors. But when it comes to protecting our land and water, we can't hesitate to conclude Iowa needs a fresh start. <http://dmreg.co/2fmL8wv>

Farmer tests prairie's power to preserve - Iowa Farmer Today - 10/30/16 - Randy Luze is growing native prairie strips to slow erosion, hold nutrients in place and provide habitat for monarchs and other pollinators. <http://bit.ly/2fmAiXo>

Chlorine gas released in Kansas distillery chemical mix-up - Chemical & Engineering News - 10/27/16 - An accident at a distillery in Atchison, Kan., that released a cloud of chlorine gas was apparently caused by a chemical safety textbook example of what not to do: mixing sulfuric acid with sodium hypochlorite. <http://bit.ly/2fmJAmu>

Congressman Criticizes EPA In Dicamba Probe - Brownfield Ag News - 10/29/16 - A Missouri Congressman says he has concerns with the EPA's involvement in the investigation of the misapplication of dicamba in the mid-South. <http://bit.ly/2fmQLef>

NATIONAL

Doubts About the Promised Bounty of Genetically Modified Crops - New York Times - 10/29/16 - The controversy over genetically modified crops has long focused on largely unsubstantiated fears that they are unsafe to eat. But an extensive examination by The New York Times indicates that the debate has missed a more basic problem — genetic modification in the United States and Canada has not accelerated increases in crop yields or led to an overall reduction in the use of chemical pesticides. <http://nyti.ms/2fmOglY>

EPA becomes border cop for recycling - Washington Examiner - 10/28/16 - Recycling waste is supposed to be good for the environment, right? Well, it can be a source of potential danger by posing a real border security threat if mishandled, according to EPA. <http://washex.am/2f4VnSi>

Bayer deceived consumers on bee-harming products — Mass. AG - Greenwire - 10/27/16 - Bayer CropScience "misled and deceived consumers" about the impact of its pesticides on bees and the environment and has subsequently pledged to reform its advertising, the Massachusetts attorney general announced yesterday. <http://bit.ly/2fmNagb>

Heritage Foundation: Criminalizing climate change dissent? A new abuse of power - Heritage Foundation - 10/30/16 - What issues matter the most to you this election? If you're like most Americans, climate change either isn't on the list or it comes in last. And that means Leonardo DiCaprio is unhappy with you. <http://bit.ly/2f4Ro8l>

EPA finalizes changes to hazardous waste export and import regulations - 10/28/16 - EPA finalized a rule to improve the nation's hazardous waste regulations to protect public health and the environment. <http://bit.ly/2fmHRqD>

New Study Finds Zero-Emission Cars will Slash Healthcare and Environmental Spending - 10/29/16 - A study released this month by the American Lung Association finds that, while a gallon of regular gas now averages around \$2.22 nationwide, that price does not reflect about \$1.15 in healthcare and other costs imposed on taxpayers, healthcare consumers, and businesses when it is used. <http://for.tn/2fmDRNu>

Commentary: Farmers have tech on their side but weeds have evolution - Bloomberg View - 10/30/16 - The way to win the war on weeds is to diversify tactics. That means combining limited herbicide use with a variety of techniques, including tillage, crop rotation and planting of certain cover crops that can block weeds. <http://bit.ly/2fmFM4w>

Reject Backward Thinking on Carbon - Morning Consult - 10/30/16 - If there's one thing we've learned over the past few decades, it's that there is no magic bullet to stop climate change. What we cannot do is go backward. <http://bit.ly/2fmJs68>

Flint effect? Environmentalism shifts to racial justice, inclusion - Christian Science Monitor - 10/28/16 - The EPA releases new environmental-justice initiatives against the backdrop of a wider trend: Black and Latino Americans are increasingly active on green issues. <http://bit.ly/2fmFvhQ>

EPA Administrator Says Agency Has 'A Lot to Prove' on Environmental Justice - Colorlines - 10/28/16 - A new plan pledges to keep overburdened communities in mind for all future decisions. <http://bit.ly/2fmKW0l>

2 billion children breathe toxic air worldwide, UNICEF says - Associated Press - 10/30/16 - A new report from UNICEF says about a third of the 2 billion children in the world who are breathing toxic air live in northern India and neighboring countries, risking serious health effects including damage to their lungs, brains and other organs. <http://bit.ly/2fmJ73n>

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by eating less meat, report says - Christian Science Monitor - 10/30/16 - Authors of a new report suggest that reducing meat consumption is among the most significant ways to reduce CO2 emissions and ensuring food security. <http://bit.ly/2fmIHtW>

Utilities Challenge EPA Landfill Rule, Teeing Up Fight On 111(d) Authority - Inside EPA - 10/28/16 - A group of power companies is suing EPA over its rule limiting the potent greenhouse gas methane from existing landfills, a case that could ultimately determine whether the agency has authority to update and strengthen rules issued under section 111 of the Clean Air Act. <http://bit.ly/2fmMpnc>

API Modeling Touts Natural Gas As Cheapest ESPS Compliance Option - Inside EPA - 10/28/16 - The American Petroleum Institute (API) is using favorable assumptions about the long-term price of natural gas in new modeling of EPA's existing power plant greenhouse gas rule. <http://bit.ly/2fmHeE8>

Judges Offer Tough Questions For EPA, Biodiesel Sector Over RFS Imports - Inside EPA - 10/28/16 - Appellate judges at Oct. 27 oral argument asked tough questions of EPA and the biodiesel sector in the industry's suit challenging the agency's system for ensuring imported biodiesel meets the greenhouse gas reduction requirements of the RFS, but they gave little indication of how they might rule. <http://insideepaclimate.com/daily-news/judges-offer-tough-questions-epa-biodiesel-sector-over-rfs-imports>

LGAC Finalizes Drinking Water Advice For EPA - Inside EPA - 10/28/16 - EPA's local government advisory panel has sent a final copy of its recommendations for the agency's National Action Plan for Drinking Water to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, broadly urging the agency to focus its strategy on the value of and affordability of water to communities and individuals. <http://bit.ly/2fmNFa1>

EPA Issues Final Air Permit 'Rescission' Rule - Inside EPA - 10/28/16 - EPA has issued its final rule granting air regulators authority to rescind air permits issued under the prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) and related new source review (NSR) programs, after a Supreme Court ruling on greenhouse gas (GHG) permits highlighted the need for permits to be scrapped under certain circumstances. <http://bit.ly/2fmKX4v>

High Court Takes Case Testing Deference To Agencies' Readings Of Rules - Inside EPA - 10/28/16 - The Supreme Court has announced it will hear a pending case over the deference judges give EPA and other agencies when they interpret the meaning of their own rules, but have already ruled out scrapping that deference -- meaning the eventual decision could at most set new limits on agencies' leeway to interpret regulatory text. <http://bit.ly/2fmMpns>

ATSDR Launches Brownfields Project To Assess Municipal Ordinances - Inside EPA - 10/28/16 - The federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has launched a brownfields project that is surveying municipalities on ordinances they have implemented that are designed to prevent the creation of brownfields, with the agency eyeing the possibility of developing model ordinances. <http://bit.ly/2fmMwzo>

Formaldehyde protects lignin during biomass processing - Chemical & Engineering News - 10/31/16 - During biomass processing, tens of millions of metric tons of lignin waste are produced each year. This wasteful sludge could be avoided by simply adding formaldehyde in the early stages of the processing, chemists report. <http://bit.ly/2fmSgJx>

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